

By way of a veto, the Governor of Ohio made a good start regarding accountability of private and privately-operated charter schools when he vetoed the Education Savings Accounts (ESA's) for non-chartered nonpublic schools.

Some legislator or legislators wedged ESA's in the state budget at the 11th hour during the state budget development process. The Governor vetoed this shameful scheme, explaining that this budgeted item lacked accountability. The plan would have given vouchers to parents who send their school-aged children to private "schools" that are not chartered and totally unregulated. (Four decades ago, when these totally unregulated schools were state authorized, the proponents agreed to operate with no tax support whatsoever in exchange for total state deregulation in deference to their religious beliefs.)

The legislative proposal to give parents voucher money for use in non-chartered private schools is a clever maneuver to circumvent the original concord. This item had been heard in a separate bill in the Statehouse and will likely continue to move toward passage.

The Governor rightfully vetoed this item because it lacked accountability. State officials should get rid of all the education entities and schemes that lack accountability—voucher and charter schools. These privately operated school businesses should be held to the same standards and regulations as public schools.